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H E A L T H A N D S A N I T A R Y A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

A N N U A L R E P O R T

1 9 5 4

Municipal Buildings,
Queen Street,
Withernsea,
E. Yorkshire.

F.R. Cripps, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

1

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Population.

The total population of Withernsea Urban District including members of the Armed Forces stationed in the District at mid-year 1954 is estimated at 4960, an increase of 32 above last year.

Birth Rate.

69 children were born during the year, 29 males and 40 females; of these 1 male and 5 females were illegitimate i.e. between 8% and 9%, which is comparatively high. The average for the East Riding is about 5%.

In addition to the 69 live children born, 2 males were stillborn; none of these were illegitimate.

The Birth Rate is 13.9 per 1,000 population. Last year the Birth Rate was 16, per 1,000 population and the year before (1952) it was 16.4 and in 1951 14.5.

When the Birth Rate is corrected by the Area Comparability Figure of 1.10, a figure which makes allowance for the age groups which predominate in the area as disclosed by the Census, the figure is raised to 15.29.

For England and Wales the rate is 15.2; for large towns 16.8; and for smaller towns 15.5.

Deaths and Death Rate.

34 males and 31 females died during the year including those who died away from their homes and district, e.g. in hospitals; of these 17 died during the 1st. quarter, 18 during the 2nd., 15 during the 3rd., and 15 during the last quarter.

The Death Rate is 13.1 per 1,000 population a decrease of nearly 4 per 1,000 from last year's figure of 17.

Of the total deaths just over one quarter died from Heart and Circulatory disease. Of these 17 deaths, one third died of Angina and Coronary disease, 4 males and 2 females; 5 from hypertension and valvular disease and 6 from diseases of the blood vessels, e.g. Arterio Sclerosis and Thrombosis, 9 people males died from Cerebral Haemorrhage. Cancer caused 8 deaths, 4 of Cancer of the Lung, all/ 2 of the Bowels and 2 of the Liver. There were no deaths from Cancer of the Breast, Stomach or Uterus.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia, which frequently used to be fatal in old people during the winter months only caused one death each in 1954; better standards of living chiefly housing and the use of antibiotics have brought about this change.

Maternal Mortality.

It is gratifying to know that there were no deaths from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion in your area.

Infectious Disease.

There were no deaths from this cause also.

Infant Mortality.

(a) Stillbirths.

In addition to the 69 live births there were 2 male stillbirths both legitimate. This is a stillbirth rate of 0.4 per 1,000 population and 28 per 1,000 total births, live and still.

(b) During the year two infants under the age of one died. Both were females, both legitimate and both died in the first 4 weeks. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 30, per 1,000 live births. ~~The rate for England and Wales is~~

No figure in a Health Report of any country is more revealing than the Infant Mortality Rate as it is the most sensitive indication of the state of the Social and Sanitary conditions there.

In Gibbons Autobiography he writes of Social and Sanitary conditions in England and says "the death of a new-born child before that of its' parents may seem an unnatural, but it is strictly a probable event since of any given number the greater part are extinguished before the ninth year".

Fifty years ago the Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was well over the 100 per 1,000 live births, improvements in social welfare and sanitary conditions has brought this rate down to about 30 per 1,000 live births and the rate is still falling, more slowly now but still steadily; but it is not falling at the same rate for every month of the year; e.g. 1936 deaths under one year for England and Wales were 58.53 per 1,000 live births compared with 27.6 in 1952 and 26.8 in 1953. This fall of about 50% in the Mortality Rate has not been accompanied by a 50% fall in the deaths during the first four weeks, in fact the decline has only been about a quarter. One should not make comparisons with small figures but surely it is significant that of the 2 children dying in their first year both died in the first 4 weeks, in fact in the first week.

The deaths were due to Bronchial Pneumonia and Infantile Convulsions, and occurred in hospital.

The first few minutes after birth are the most critical in a baby's life particularly in the premature infant where the ribs may be so soft the respiratory muscles cannot get a satisfactory hold. This prevents the lungs from being made to expand. The use of oxygen under pressure is one line of treatment and progress is being made in the treatment of haemlyphicanaemia (Rhesus factor).

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The following is a Summary of the Notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year:-

	Jan-Mch		April-June		July-Sept		Oct-Dec		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	1954	1953
Measles	23	16	25	28	2	2	2	1	99	8
Whooping Cough	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	4	1
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0
Acute										
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4
Tuberculosis										
- Lungs	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	5	2
" Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Typhoid (Enteric)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	0
Oph thalmia										
Neonal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Food Poisoning										
(excluding Typhoid)	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5	0
Dysentory										
Bacillary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
									120	32

Measles.

99 cases were notified, 92 of them in the months March to June. Most of the children were in the age group 3-6 years.

Whooping Cough.

Only one child was notified in the early spring, 16 cases were notified in 1953. It is possible that preventive immunisation over the past few years is now having an appreciable effect and it is to be hoped that parents will note this, and make sure that their children are protected against Whooping Cough as well as Diphtheria, because without immunisation both these diseases would soon return.

Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.

No children died of this infection, but one child was notified as suffering from a typhoid infection, and was treated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Scarlet Fever.

Three cases occurred, one adult in June and two children in October.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified. None have been notified for the past two years. Proof of the efficacy of Preventive Immunisation, but it has to be kept up. The price of freedom from attack is only immunisation.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

One case in an adult visitor occurred, who was removed to hospital and did well.

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria - 1954.

(a) Number of persons vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year 1954.

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1.	1 year.	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Totals
Number vaccinated	29	-	1	5	10	45
Number re-vaccinated	-	1	2	-	12	15

(b) Number of children at 31st. December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st. January, 1940.)

Age at 31.12.54. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5 to 9 1945-1949	10-14 1940-1944	Total Under 15
Number immunised (Whether primary or booster) :								
1950-1954	3	42	50	52	57	234	190	628
1949 or earlier	-	-	-	-	-	112	163	275
Totals.....	3	42	50	52	57	346	353	903

(c) Number of children immunised during the year ended 31st. December, 1954.
(Figures also included in (b) Above)

Under 5.	5 - 14.	Total.	Boosters.
50	1	51	12

Tuberculosis.

Five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. The following tables summarise the notifications and deaths:-

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 plus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-

Tuberculosis is caused by a Bacillus, first isolated by Professor Koch in 1882. It is most commonly contracted between the ages of 15 - 45 years, but Pulmonary Tuberculosis is more common among old people than is generally thought and a source of infection thus often missed.



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Infection sometimes occurs more frequently in some families. This may be due to an inherited susceptibility or to an overwhelming infection in and from the family. Overcrowding, lack of sun light and deficient ventilation predispose to infection. Direct spread of the disease is due to bacilli in the sputum sprayed on coughing, or in milk from cows with tuberculosis of the udder. In meat the bacilli are killed by cooking, in milk by pasteurisation and of course by boiling.

Food Poisoning.

Five people in three families were affected by gastro-enteritis due to food poisoning after eating pork pie infected with Staphalococcus germs. The pies had been kept too long after being made, before being sold thereby enabling the germs to multiply to such an extent that they caused disease, but of course the germs should never have got into the pies in the first place. This illustrates in a practical manner the paramount importance of cleanliness in preparing food, especially the scrupulous washing of the hands beforehand and inspection for septic wounds of the hands, running noses, etc.

All the patients recovered after a short illness including those in a family just outside your area who had bought an infected pie.

General Provision of Health Services.

National Health Service.

Hospital treatment is provided for in this area chiefly at Hull Infirmary and Westwood Hospital at Beverley where there are full facilities for X-ray and Laboratory examination.

Bacteriological examinations are also carried out at the Research Laboratory, High Street, Hull, chiefly for examinations of bacterial infections of food, water, etc.,

Sanatoria and Clinics for the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis are part of the Health Service, as also is a Maternity Home at Withernsea.

The County Council provide services for the care of expectant and nursing mothers and infants including the unmarried mother and child; also Domiciliary Midwifery Health Visitors, Home Nursing arrangements for vaccination and immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, Ambulance Service and Home Help Services.

Under the National Assistance Act, 1948 the County Council became responsible for the provision of accommodation of all persons who by reason of age, infirmity or any other circumstance are in need of care and attention other than medical or nursing cases, and further for the provision of a Welfare Service for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb and other persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disabilities as may be sanctioned by the Minister of Health.

Persons requiring regular or medical or sick nursing are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Boards.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken by your Council under Section 47, but where necessary persons in need of care and attention owing to age, etc., would be admitted to one of the Old Peoples Residences with the co-operation of the County Council.

Sanitary Circumstances of the
District -

Overleaf

Water Supply.

The water supply is obtained under Contract from the Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation, the contract dating from February, 1916.

The supply is piped under pressure to a tower at Rimswell, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Withernsea, and is then distributed by gravitation. The supply has been satisfactory in quality but due to a shortage in supplies at the source it was found necessary to partially close valves on the distribution system in the urban district so as to restrict consumption. The use of hosepipes and washing of cars was also prohibited during part of the year under review.

Analysis of Water Copy of Public Health Laboratory Report).

Taken from Dunswell on the 5th April, 1955.

Physical Examination.

Colour Colourless
 Appearance . . . Clear - Trace of suspended matter (chalk).
 Taste Normal.
 Smell None.

General Chemical Examination.

Reaction, pH,	7.3
	Parts per Million
Free Carbon Dioxide, as CO ₂	8.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N	None
Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N	None
Nitrous Nitrogen, as N	None
Nitric Nitrogen, as N	5.35
Hardness (Soap test) as CaCO ₃	287
Temporary	193
Permanent	94
Permanganate figure (4 hrs. 80°F) as O	0.281
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃	222
Total Solids (at 180°C.)	455 \times
Free Chlorine	0.05
Lead	None
Fluorine	0.09

Mineral Analysis

Calcium, as Ca.	129.2 \times
Silica, as SiO ₂	5.0
Magnesium, as Mg	0.7
Sodium, as Na	19.0
Carbonate, as CO ₃	133.1
Chloride, as Cl	29.0
Sulphate, as SO ₄	80.2 \times
Nitrate, as NO ₃	23.7
Iron, as Fe	None

\times Higher than normal

Bacteriological Data of Water

Taken from Dunswell on the 5th July, 1955.

No. of Colonies growing on Nutrient Agar
 at 21°C, per 1 ml. of the water (3 days) 7
 No. of Colonies growing on Nutrient Agar
 at 37°C, per 1 ml. of the water (2 days) 0
 Presumptive B. Coli Test (2 days)
 Probable No. Bac. Coli in 100 mls. of the water. 0

Consumption Of water

The total consumption of water during the year was 57,980,000 gallons, a DECREASE of 787,000 gallons, (approx. 1.3%), as compared with the consumption of 58,767,000 gallons during the year 1953.

Metered supplies	7,586,460 gallons
Other non-domestic consumption	61,380 "
Domestic consumption	50,532,160 "
TOTAL	<u>57,980,000</u> "

Gross Daily Consumption 158,850 gallons
Domestic Daily Consumption 140,314 "
Domestic Consumption, per head, per day
based on a population of 4,960 28.47 gallons.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The area is drained on the combined system and the sewage is discharged into the sea without treatment, the point of discharge being opposite the central promenade fouling of the beaches with sewage takes place. The sewerage system is overloaded and your Consulting Engineers have stated that it is inadvisable to increase the load until the new scheme of sewerage and settlement tanks are approved and constructed.

All the domestic premises in the area are provided with waterclosets the drains of which are connected to the public sewers with the exception of five low lying cottages which cannot be so connected. Four of the latter are provided with chemical closets and one has a watercloset which drains to a cesspit.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse and Night Soil.

Night soil from approximately 296 privies at the various holiday caravan camps in the area is collected weekly with a covered metal bodied motor vehicle and disposed of on farms outside the district.

A similar vehicle is employed for the weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse which is dealt with at the Incinerator Station. 1,292 loads (approximately 1,938 tons) of house refuse and 153 loads (approximately 153 tons) of trade refuse were collected. The agreement entered into with a local scrap metal, etc., merchant whereby he undertook to sort the refuse delivered to the Incinerator Station and retain and dispose of the salvaged materials has continued to operate satisfactorily.

The following clinker and ashes were sold, mainly to farmers in the surrounding area:-

Clinker....	39 cub. yds....	£3. 18. 0.
Ashes.....	258 cub. yds....	£19. 7. 0.

Rodent Control

A total of 66 inspections and reinspections of dwellinghouses, business premises and agricultural premises have been made and 38 treatments carried out where infestations of rats were found. A number of treatments for the clearance of mice have also been carried out.

The public sewers have been test baited on two occasions and on each occasion poison baiting was carried out in the districts where the presence of rats was ascertained. There were no serious infestations.

Verminous Premises

One complaint of a verminous caravan on one of the caravan holiday camps was investigated and dealt with informally.

Factories

The following factories are on the register:-

Joiner.....	4
Letter Press and Printing.....	1
Sweets and Ice Cream Manufacture..	1
Charging Accumulators.....	1
Coal Gas Manufacture.....	1
Garages and Motor Repairs.....	4
Light General Engineering.....	1
Bakeries.....	4
Scrap Metal Baling.....	1
Plumbers and Electricians.....	4
Total-----	<u>22</u>

Successful informal action was taken in one instance for the cleansing of sanitary accommodation and the provision of intervening ventilated space between a W.C. and workshop. W.C's and handwash basins for the two sexes were installed in a bakehouse after informal action.

Housing

Number of houses erected in 1954:-

By the Council. Nil

By Private Enterprise 4

Number of houses demolished :- 1 (A house which was in a bad state of repair and dangerously near the cliff edge and which was voluntarily demolished by the owner).

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year

- (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 26
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 58
- (2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 5
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 12
- (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1
- (4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 16

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 15

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
 - (a) By Owners. Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil
- (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.
 - (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 1
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
 - (a) By Owners. 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. Nil

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Nil
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein. Nil
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein Nil
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases. Nil
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

Ministry of Health Requisitioned Houses

Maintenance repairs to Ministry of Health Requisitioned Houses (ex Military) have been carried out. There were 12 requisitioned houses at 31st December, 1954.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Two "Certificates of Disrepair" were issued and were subsequently revoked after defects were remedied by the Owners.

Holiday Caravan Camps.

There are six camping sites in the area for which licences to accommodate a total of 267 caravans are in force. The sites are licenced annually.

Two sites containing 29 holiday caravans are at present subject to the removal of the caravans under enforcement notices served by the County Planning Authority under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Routine supervision of the preparation of retail food products, chiefly butchers premises, fried fish and chip shops, grocery and confectionery shops, was carried out

Six Supplementary Licences have been issued under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, as follows:-

- 2 in respect of the Special Designation "PASTEURISED",
- 3 in respect of the Special Designation "STERILISED" and
- 1 in respect of the Special Designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED".

There are 27 Purveyors of Milk on the Register.

The following foods, found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

6 lbs.	Pressed Beef.
12 lbs.	Pineapple.
2 lbs. 3 ozs.	Italian Tomatoes (Tinned)
9 lbs. 12 ozs.	Bacon.
7 lbs.	Golden Syrup.
14 lbs.	Treacle.
15 ozs.	Pilchards.
1 lb. 12 ozs.	Grapes (Tinned).
2 lbs.	Plums (Tinned).
2 lbs.	Currants.
14 lbs.	Custard Powder.
24 lbs.	Asparagus Cuts (Tinned).
4 lbs.	Tomato Catsup (Tinned).
9 lbs. 9 ozs.	Boiled Ham.
20 ozs.	Grapefruit Juice
64 fl.oz.	Sauce.
20 fl.oz.	Tomato Juice.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 57 (Licencing of Slaughterhouses).

Arising out of the de-control of meat and livestock on the 1st July, 1954 a meeting of the Withernsea butchers was called at which the provisions for dealing with slaughtering were discussed. It was elicited that only two of the eight butchers in the town would require regular slaughtering of livestock and that the remainder would obtain their supplies of meat from outside sources.

Prior to the 1939/1945 war there were three registered slaughterhouses and in 1954 one only was suitable for use. The Owner, a butcher, undertook to place the premises at the disposal of the local meat traders. This undertaking was accepted, the premises were duly licenced and are being used by two butchers for regular weekly slaughtering on three evenings each week with some casual slaughtering of which due notice is received from the owner. The arrangements have operated satisfactorily.

During the year under review 70 cattle, 296 sheep and 194 pigs have been slaughtered and practically 100% inspection has been effected.

Slaughtermens Licences.

Seven "Licences to Slaughter or stun animals" were issued.

SUMMARY.

	1954			1953.	1952.
	Males	Females	Total		
Births.					
Legitimate.	28	35	63	78	78
Illegitimate.	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
Totals.	29	40	69	81	83
Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population			13.9	16.43	16.4
Still-Births.					
Legitimate	2	0	2	4	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0
Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population			0.4	0.8	Nil
Deaths	34	31	65	84	73
Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population			13.1	17.04	14.73
Infant Mortality					
Legitimate	0	2	2	Nil	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0	Nil	0
Infant Mortality Rate					
Per 1,000 Live Births			30	Nil	60
Per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births			32	Nil	64
Per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births			Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Measles			Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough			Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea Enteritis			Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality					
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion			Nil	Nil	Nil

The following table shows the figures for the various causes of Death:-

Causes of Death	Number of Deaths			1953.
	Males	Females	Total	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, Other forms	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-
Other Infection Disease	-	-	-	1
Cancer, Stomach	-	-	-	4
Cancer, Lungs	4	-	4	2
Cancer, Breast	-	-	-	1
Cancer, Uterus	-	-	-	1
Cancer, Others	1	3	4	7
Disease of Blood	-	-	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5	4	9	13
Heart Disease	6	5	11	12
Circulatory Diseases	3	3	6	6
Pneumonia	-	1	1	6
Bronchitis	-	1	1	7
Disease of Kidney	1	-	1	1
Disease of Prostate	1	-	1	2
Other Diseases	12	14	26	13
Motor Accidents	0	0	0	1
Other Accidents, etc.	-	-	-	4
Totals	34	31	65	82

